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Letter dated 16 December 1999 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

I am writing in connection with the provisions of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 35/10 A of 3 November 1980, by which the Assembly decided that all proposals relating to the schedule of conferences and meetings made at sessions of the Assembly should be reviewed by the Committee on Conferences when administrative implications were being considered under the requirements of rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. Accordingly, on 14 December 1999, I transmitted a letter to all members of the Committee on Conferences regarding draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.73, entitled "Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s", requiring exceptions to General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985. The draft resolution was adopted by consensus in the Second Committee on 14 December 1999.

With regard to operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.73, the Committee on Conferences was informed that, as the headquarters of the substantive secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is in Geneva, the convening of the two sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in New York would require an exception to the arrangements established by resolution 40/243 (A/C.2/54/L.74, para. 5).

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6 of resolution 35/10 A, the Committee on Conferences is required to advise the General Assembly on granting a departure from section I, paragraph 4, of General Assembly resolution 40/243.

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I wish to inform you that, having carefully reviewed the case, the Committee on Conferences recommends to the General Assembly that it grant an exception to section I, paragraph 4, of resolution 40/243, thereby authorizing the intergovernmental preparatory committee to convene in New York, away from its established headquarters.

(*Signed*) Peter **Van De Velde**
Chairman
Committee on Conferences